

**Permanent Mission of Lebanon
to the United Nations**

Ref: 2569/11

The Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and, with reference to the latter's note # CM/SW/is dated August 17, 2011, has the honor to forward information from the Lebanese Ministry of Social Affairs regarding the Human Rights Council resolution 16/15 concerning the rights of persons with disabilities.

The Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, October 24, 2011



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for Human Rights (OHCHR)
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25 OCT. 2011

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1. Are there any restrictions on the right of persons with disability to vote and be elected? IF so, what are those restrictions

- i. To our knowledge, no restrictions are legally written in any of the laws related to elections, be it local (municipalities), syndical (labor or other), parliament or other.
- ii. The only restriction can be found with relation to the "legal capacity" of the person, which is by itself a very old legislation needing specific amendments. But proving its legal capacity in order to vote or being elected IS NOT a requirement per the procedures. It is only an issue when someone objects this candidature or the voting.
- iii. On the contrary, the Lebanese constitution has clearly stated that ALL Lebanese are equal in their rights

2. What are the steps taken by your government to ensure that pwd participate in political and public life?

- i. In 1993, the law 243/2000 related to the persons with disability that replaced the former law of 1973, gave the right to the persons with disability to be members elected to the National Committee of Person with Disability, whose mandate is to put the policies and strategies of disability. 4 of the 12 members where to be disabled themselves. One for each type of disability.
- ii. In May 2000, the law 220 replaced the law 243, and increased this number (of representative of pwd) in the national committee (NCDP) to 8 over 18 : 4 individuals on their own capacities, and 4 representative of DPO's
- iii. The article 98 of this same 20/200 law, requested the amendment of all municipal, parliamentary laws (and other) as to facilitate access to pwd both to vote and be elected , a decree was to be issued for this purpose
- iv. In 2005, the Mo Interior and Municipalities facilitated the access of pwd to some specific election centers (parliamentary elections)
- v. In 2008 the article 92 of the new (parliamentary) election law 23/ 08-10-2008 clearly stipulated the responsibility of the Ministry (of interior) to take the needs of pwd into consideration in the organizations of the elections, reducing obstacles to their practicing their right to vote.
- vi. In 2009, a project of decree was presented by the ministry of Interior and Municipalities , to the government , with a comprehensive procedure for persons with special needs followed by Memo to all parties in charge of elections called them as to pay special attention the pwd needs in their districts for elections



vii. In 2001, 2005, 2009 The Ministry of Social affairs organized the elections of the members of the NCDP, facilitating to the maximum possible the procedures as to guaranty the proper participation of pwd with disabilities to vote and to be elected. The participation was shy. And a plan of action on its way to encourage this process.

3. What steps has your government taken and what mechanisms exist:

a. *To ensure close and active consultation with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in decision-making processes, including those related to the development of legislation and policy?*

The article 6 of the law 220/2000 gives the NCDP the latitudes to prepare policies related to disability, and to participate to all national plans and strategies, present project of laws, norms and regulations, in coordination with related private and public sector; 8 of the NCDP members are pwd.

The specific decree for elections mentioned above was issued in close collaboration between: The national committee for the disabled and a consortium of NGO's working in the field of disabilities and of DPO's.

One DPO was given special mandate to be part of the organizers and to watch over the good implementation and treatment of pwd during the elections

b. *To promote participation in non-governmental organizations and associations concerned with public and political life?*

No specific promotion for participation in associations concerned with public and political life was made by the government; But on obstacles or restrictions exist at this level; Lebanon give NGO's a wide range of freedom and does not interfere. No law forbid any pwd to be active in any field

c. *To promote organizations of pwd at international, regional and local levels?*

The 220/2000 has introduced a definition of DPO's, that granted them a specific status clearly distinguishing DPO's from service NGO's witch , and encouraged their constitution ;

DPO's number has increased over the last 10 years, after the issue of the 220/2000 by more than 4 times.

DPO's were represented at the UN assemblies for the discussion of the International Convention for person with disabilities, as members of the official delegations.



4. How are pwd and their representative organizations involved in monitoring the Convention?

The Parliament of Lebanon has not yet ratified the Convention and its protocol; also it has signed it in April 2007 and forwarded the project of law to the general assembly. The declarations of the council of ministries confirmed it will to achieve this process. So there is not, as per today, a process for monitoring the convention.

5. Are statistics collected in relation to the participation of pwd in political and public life? please provide relevant statistics and data if possible

Unfortunately besides figures related to the number of persons who were candidate and who voted to the Lebanese NCD, no statistics are available as per the Pwd participation to the last parliament and municipal elections. A process of coordination with the Ministry of interior is meant to be installed in 2013 planned elections

6. Is your government involved in international cooperation programs related to promoting political rights of pwd? Please describe the ways the programs are inclusive of and accessible to pwd

No information available related to this issue

